

## REMARKS

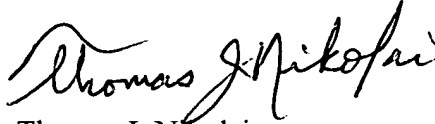
In accordance with the above amendment, the specification has been amended to indicate this application as a continuing application based on a corresponding PCT application.

Early examination and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Dated: Feb. 9, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

NIKOLAI & MERSEREAU, P.A.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas J. Nikolai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

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